DE CURAÇAOSCHE COURANT.

Vol. V.] Saturdag den 8stes Maart, 1817. [No. 10.

PUBLICATIE.

ALZO Praesident ad-interim en Raden van Civile en Crimineele Justitie over Curaçao en onderhorige Eilanden, by besluit van heden, met intrekking en alteratie der publicatie van den 23sten April 1816 by hun Weledele en Achtbaaren geëmaneert, goed gevonden hebben te bepalen.

Dat, voortaan, desselfs aanvang nemende met de maand Maart aanstaande, de volle Raad van Civile en Crimineele Justitie hare gewone sessien houden zal de *eerste Donderdag* van ieder maand, en Raden Commissarissen ter ordinaris Rolle zitten zullen de *twede* en *vierde Donderdag* van elke maand, zullende even als van ouds, conform aan den 67ste artikel op de manier van procedeeren, de gepriviligeerde zaken het eerst worden opgeroepen, en het aan de geinteresseerde parthy vrystaan, een buitengewone Raads sessie te verzoeken, mits dit geschiede aan den Praesident van dezen Hove, vier volle dagen voor de te verzoekene dag, en tegens betaling der gewone *Leges* daar op staande. Zo is het: dat Praesident ad-interim en Raden zulks ter kennisse bregt zo van alle Practizyns voor deze Regtbank postuleerende als respective Ingezetenen om hun hiernae te reguleeren. En zal midsdien de eerste Raads zitting conform deze publicatie plaats hebben op Donderdag den 6den en die van Ra[illegible] en 27sten Maart 1817.

En op dat niemand hier van eenige onwetendheid kome voortewenden, zal deze ter audientie van den Hove en voorts ter gewone tyd en plaatse worden gepubliceerd en geaffigeert.

Aldus gedaan en gearresteert by den Raad van Civile en Crimineele Justitie over Curaçao en onderhorige eilanden in hoogstderzelfs ordinaire zitting op den 19den February 1817.

Praesentibus alle de Heeren.

(Was getekend) J. J. ELSEVIER.

Ter ordonnantie van dezelve,

(Was getekend) J. THIELEN.

Gepubliceerd den 20sten February, 1817.

J. THIELEN, Sec. ad-int.

ADVERTISSEMENTS.

Curaçao den 28sten February 1817.

AAN de Gepatenteerden op dit Eiland word by deze geadverteerd, dat de recieven, voor de door hun te betalen termyn van 1ste January tot 31sten Maart deezes jaars, ten zyne kantoore in gereedheid zyn, en des Maandags, Dingsdags, Donderdags, en Vrydags, voor de middag van 9 tot 12 uuren, kunnen afgehaald worden.

MATTHs. SCHOTBORGH, G. s.
Ontvanger Generaal.

Curaçao, den 28sten Feb. 1817.

MET reekent het niet onbelangryk, te berigten dat de Leden die tot de Maatschappy van het *Nut van het Algemeen* zyn toegetreeden, zich op Woensdag den 26sten February tot een Departement gevormd hebben met de toestemming van Z. E. de Gouverneur Generaal van dit Eiland, die zich wel tot beschermer van het zelve Departement heeft willen stellen. De genen die Leden van het zelve Departement gelieven te worden, kunnen zich addresseeren by den Weled: Gestrengen Heere J. J. Elsevier President van den Raad van Justitie, en den Heere G. G. Van Paddenburg School Onderwyzer.

Curaçao, 13den Feb. 1817.

DEN ondergeteekende, kapitein van het brik schip De Industrie, verzoekt en waarschouwt ieder, om niets aan de Equipage van gemelde brik te crediteeren, zullende niets betaald worden door

EBERH. HILLERS.

Curaçao den 8ste Maart 1817.

Naar Jaquemel en Aux Cayes.

De snel zeilende Americaansche Schoener



PEGASUS,

Schipper JOHN DALY,

Zal vertrekken op aanstaande week, voor Vraagt of Passagie, waarvoor gemeld vaartuig heel wel geschikt is, kan men zig vervoegen by den Schipper aan boord, op Basden's Werf, of by de Heer PETER VANSTEENBERGH, No. 36. Breede Straat.

VOOR DE CURAÇAOSCHE COURANT.

HET SLAGVELD.

Vrygevolgd naar het Engelsch dicht stuk
(The Field of Battle.)

T' is nacht, het woen des stryds heeft eind'lyk uitgewoed,
Men ziet het wacht vuur slechts van top tot toppen zweven,
Den toon der krygsklaoen hoort 't luist'rend oor niet meer,
Plegtstaat'ge stilte heerscht, natuur schynt niet te leven,
Slecht wen de wind 't gekerm der stervenden verheft,
Is 't dat hun laatstezucht 't gevoelig oor nog
[illegible] gloeiend morgenrood,
Doet u het moedig Heer, in glans gewaad aanstaren;
Met vaand'len trotschen pracht en wapenen hellen glans;
Hoor nu den morgengroet by 't krygsmuziek der scharen,
Terwyl de zucht tot stryd elks krygsmans oog ontgloeit.
En hoop op zegepraal en ieders boezem vloeit
Doch nu—De arm die vaak des oorlogs donders wierp,
De stem die steeds den moed en 't harte wist t' ontvonken,
De ziel met kennis als Gods schoonst geschenk begaafd,
En harten staag van roem en oorlogs eerzucht dronken,
Of wel op 't teerst verknocht aan gade en kroost en eer:
Zy leggen sluim'rend reeds in d' arm der doods ter neer.
Rust sluimerenden zacht,—Haast daagt de morgenstond!
Wanneer uw levens-zon uit doodschen nacht zal dagen.—
Als iedere aardsche band, vernield, verbroken wordt,
En zaal'ge onsterfelykheid na levens felle plagen,
U offers van den kryg, een duurzaam loon bereid,
Dan styge voor Gods throon uw lied in heerlykheid!!

VOOR DE CURAÇAOSCHE COURANT.

TE LEUR GESTELDE LIEFDE.

Wat onverdraaglyk leed, wat al te felle smart,
Verwint in het eind den mensch, en buigt het stalen hart,
En breekt het vlammend oog, en wringt met naar geluid,
De lang bedwongen klagt ten bangen boezem uit?
Dat hart, dat naar gebrek, naar smaad noch laster vroeg,
Het plettend vallen van een wereld ligt verdroeg,
En, tegen Noodlots wil, haar mooglyk nog kop schorten,
Wat buigt het nu ter neer en doet zyn sterkte storten?
Geen [illegible] weekeling plengt hier een dwazen tra[illegible],
En kla[illegible] van doelloos kwaad een strenge Godhei[illegible],
En doe[illegible] het leven naar, en eischt een vroegen do[illegible]
(Een ei[illegible], voor het enge hart des dwazen veel te [illegible]oot,)
Werpt [illegible] vreugde weg om het missen van een wensch,
En me[illegible] zich nutteloos voor Maatschappy en M[illegible]sch:
Hy ka[illegible]elukkig zyn, noch het heil van andren sm[illegible];
Hy zin[illegible] in het graf ter neer om nimmer weer te [illegible]waken.

Maa[illegible] moet de wyze dan, gevoelig voor 't goed,
Het k[illegible] niet voelen, wyl hy het kwaad verdr[illegible] moet?
En, al[illegible]yn fiere borst het woedend lot weerst[illegible],
Niet s[illegible]artlyk krimpen by de wonden die het s[illegible],
Maar, [illegible]n den struis gelyk, of Groenlands loggen Be[illegible]r,
Gevoe[illegible]os staren op het boren van de speer?
Dan [illegible] de Wysheid vry uit menschenharten he[illegible],
En pr[illegible]e zendos leer in koude marmersteenen.
N[illegible] Wysbegeerte wil zoo dwaas een strang[illegible]
[illegible] geen driften, [illegible] de rede slechts het gebied,
En het edel Christendom, dat fynste zielsgenot
Dat Englen droefheid leent, en tranen aan een God,
Dat teedre menschlykheid, en deugds verheven schoon,
Vereenigd schittren doet op 's hoogen Middaarstroon,
Maakt kalmer wel de drift, en min geschokt het leven;
Maar wil geen yzen schors aan warme harten geven.
En, Gy, myn hartvriendin. verschoont myn droeve klagt;
Gy kent des Noodlots Woede, en kent der liefde magt,
Gy weet, wat heil my blonk, wat Hemel ik genoot,
Gy kent myn vreugden, en gy kent haar rassen dood.
'T vooruitzigt, eens *haar* heil te deelen als *haar* smart,
Tot hooger adel saam te smelten beider hart—
'T vervloog. Elize, neen! hier helpt geen vriendlyk streelen:
De wond is al te diep; zy kan, zy mag niet heelen.
Maar vrees geen nutteloos verkwynen van myn jeugd.
De beste vreugd is heen, toch bleef er menig vreugd.
De stille en sterke vlyt, de lagchende natuur,
'T gezigt van edle daan, des dichters heilig vuur,
En weldoens yver, die geluk rondom verspreidt,
En Godvruchts vlammen, en de baak der eeuwigheid;
En de onvolmaakte troost in vriendschaps koesterende armen,
Kan altyd, als voorheen, 't verstyfde hart verwarmen.
En zoo my eens de hoop, de daauwe, niet bedroog,
Een Godheid op my sloeg het medelydend oog,
Een goede genius, met sterken tooverstaf,
Aan 't naastvolmaakte heil op aarde wezen gaf,
En lydens scherpste doorn de schoonste rozen droeg,
En aan myn dankbre borst *haar* hart: *ik min u*, sloeg—
Verbeelding, staak uw' vlugt, en daal in [illegible]vens holen.
Myn weg gaat nederwaarts en klimmen waar verdoolen.

Fiscaals's Kantoor, 8sten Maart, 1817.

DE ondergetekende als daar toe door den Weledelen Achtbaren Raad behoorlyk gequalificeerd, doet by deze alle Broodbakkers te kennen geven, en ordonneren, dat de Brooden voor deze en volgende week te bakken het gewigt moeten houden als—

De Fransche Broden 10, en
De Ronde Broden 11 oncen,

Op pœne als by publicatie is gestatueerd.
Per order van den Raad Fiscaal.
P. HOCHE Eerste Klerk.

Curaçao den 28sten Feb. 1817.
TE KOOP.

DE Haytische Brig MARY met deszelfs toebehoren, volgens Inventaris.
Zynde gemelde Inventaris te zien ten Kantoore van
C. W. JUTTING & Co.

For Sale at the Printing-Office.

Tariffs—Blank Price Currents.—ditto Bills of Exchange.—ditto of Sale—ditto Lading.

CURACAO.

Vaartuigen in en uitgeklaart zeder d onze laatste

INGEKLAARD—MAART.

3. golet Labarbina, Arostigni,	Coro
—— St. José, Gil,	La Guayra
—— Francisca Paula, Levy,	ditto
4. bark Matilda, Griffiing,	St. Martins
golet Dover, Barne,	Gloucester
—— Josephina, Porchant,	Jaquemel
—— Comeet, Evertsz,	Spaansche Kust
5. bark De Goede Hoop, Eltino,	ditto
6. lantje Trebida, Aroca,	Coro
schip Vrow Tryntje, Dekker,	St. Thomas
7. golet Elizabeth, Rusman,	Rio de la Hache
—— Elizabeth, Meggie,	Maracaybo
—— Matchless, Elridge,	Antigua

UITGEKLAARD—MAART.

1. bark Mary, Schoonaawolf,	Aruba
4. —— Twee Lingen, Depool,	ditto
5. golet Conception, Montero,	Maracaybo
—— Eliza, Cohen,	Trinidad
6. —— Dorothea, Hart,	St. Thomas
bark Fortuin, Penso,	Aricla
golet Jan Hendrik, Danies,	Spaansche Kust
7. —— De Goede Hoop, Paar,	St. Croix
—— John, Pieters,	Rio de la Hache
—— Friendship, Shain,	Baltimore
Societeit, Fybs,	Spaansche Kust

Dingsdag laatstleden zynde de verjaardag der terug gave deze kolonie aan Zyne Majesteit den Koning der Nederlanden, hebben de Hoofd Ambtenaren alhier, aan de Officieren van het Garnisoen en de Burgery, en aan een aantal aanzienlyk Inwoners een pragtig Bal gegeven.

Zyner Majesteit's corvet Ajax, van 20 stukken, kapitein Van Zuilen van Nyeveldt, kwam hier des Woensdags binnen. De Ajax is eerst te Delmina eene van onze bezittingen op de Kust van Afrika, en van daar te Suriname geweest, van welke laatste plaats zy den 27sten zeilde, St. Eustachius op derzelver tocht naar deze kolonie aandoende.

Per de golet Matchless, dewelke Donderdag avond alhier met vier dagen reis van Antigua is aangekomen, hebben wy de confirmatie wegens de nieuws van de oproer in Frankryk ontvangen. Twee dagen voor haar vertrek, was aldaar een oorlogs brig met 26 dagen reis, met depeches van Engeland aangekomen. Het Engelsch gouvernement was bezig 25 linie schepen tot voorstand van de Bourbons uitterusten.

Extract uit een brief van St. Thomas, gedagtekend den 28sten Feb. 1817.

"Wy hebben alhier veel nieuws, de byzonderheden zyn my niet verder bekend, dan, dat er een bloedige revolutie in Frankryk plaats heeft, en dat Engeland 26 schepen van linie heeft uitgerust. In Engeland is er oproer zeer groot, de paketboot is opgehouden, ten einde de depeches van het gouvernement voor haar mogen aankomen. De verdere tyding hieromtrent, zal u ongetwyffeld per de eerste gelegendheid geworden."

Extract uit een andere brief van St. Thomas van den 28sten February 1817.

"Een vaartuig van Barbados brengt de nieuws dat aldaar een express van Engeland aangekomen is, zeggende dat Engeland zig wapend, dog zonder te melden tegens welke mogendheid."

Extract uit de Courant van Caracas van den 26sten February 1817.

"Een brief gedagtekend Hoofd Kwartier del Pilar den 10den February 1817, van Don Pasqual Real den Commandant in Chef van het armee van het Oosten, aan den gouverneur en kapitein generaal van Venezuela meld.

"Dat hy de positie van Bolivar, die zig met 1000 man en ses stukken kanon in het Godshuis te Barcelona bevond vernomen hebbende, op den 7den na zig met het divisie van Clarines onder Manuel Bausa, Francisco Ximenes en Francisco Tomas Morales verenigd te hebben, besloten had de stad te attakeren, het welke van dat gevolg was, dat hy zig van de brug meester maakte, en den vyand met verlies van 300 zo dooden, gewonden als vermisten, noodzaakte zig in het voornoemde gebouw optesluiten, het verlies aan de kant der Royalisten was zeer gering.

"Ingevolge dier bewegingen bevond zig de stad van Barcelona zedert den 10den (uitgezenderd op de weg naar Cumana) zeer naauw ingesloten.

"Op den 12den attakeerde het Koninglyk eskader die naar Cumana te rug keerde, 4 vyandlyke vaartuigen die zig omstreeks de haven van Barcelona bevonden, en joeg hun in den mond van den Rivier op strand.

"Het Kwartier generaal van zyne excellentie Pablo Morillo bevond zig op den 14den in de stad van St. Fernando. Op het vernemen dier tyding, namen de oproerigen van Achagua (dat is te zeggen) *de agt duizend man onder Urdaneta*, waarop Simon Bolivar zo veel staat gemaakt had de vlugt, en begaven zig vol schrik in de bosschen aan gene zyde van de Arauca, Zyne excellentie word binnen kort in de stad van Calabozo verwagt.

"Op den 6den dezer te een uur des namiddags detacheerde Mariño tusschen 8 a 900 man van zyn armee, waaronder 200 kavallery naar Barcelona tot hulp van hunne elendige broeders; op den 9den kwamen er slegts 400 man van te regt, de overigen zyn verdweenen, en houden zig ten blyk hunner goedwilligheid tot den dienst, tusschen de bergen verholen. Het getal van hun die te Cautaro overgebleven zyn, is zo door gebrek als desertie veel verminderd, zy zyn naar Cariaco en Cumanacoa, alwaar zy rond zwerven te rug gekeerd. Dus heeft het beleg van Cumana, die met zoo veel grootheid aangekondigd, doch schandelyk volgehouden wierd, een einde genomen."

Donderdag den 6den dezer is overleden Vrouwe F. M. Ribbius, Wed van wylen den Wel Ed. Gestrenge Heer en Mr. Hubs. Coerman, eertyds Raad Fiscaal dezer Colonie.

ONTDEKKING VAN AMERIKA.

In het laatste nummer van het Magazyn voor wetenschappen kunsten en letteren (kunst en letterbode) uitgegeven in het Hollandsch te Amsterdam, is het bewezen uit nieuwe documenten die zeer authentiek zyn, dat het geenzins aan Columbus of aan Vesputius is, dat wy de ontdekking van Amerika te danken hebben, maar aan Martyn Behens een inboreling van Neurenberg in Frankenland. Hy was een zeer geleerde aardrykskundige, sterrekundige en zeeman.—Hy zeilde in 1459 met een schip, bemand op order van Isabella, dochte van Jan de II. koning van Portugal, welke ten dien tyde gouvernante van Bourgundie en Vlaanderen was. Hy ontdekte eerst Fayal met de daarby liggende eilanden, de Azores genaamd, die voor langen tyd den naam van de Vlaamsche Eilanden droegen. Hy bewoonde twintig jaren lang die stad, waar hy eene kolonie van Vlamingers daarstelde. Acht jaren voor de onderneming van Columbus, in 1484, vervoegde hy zich in het geheim tot Jan den II. die een smaldeel uitruste, om hen alle soort van hulp te verleenen. Behens ontdekte eerst Brasilie, drong door tot de straat van Magellaan, en bezocht het land door de Patagoniers bewoond. Hy maakte eene kaart van zyne ontdekking, leverde die den koning over, en zond eene kopie naar Neurenberg, zyn geboortestad, waar het zelve nog wordt bewaard in de archieven van de stad. Het was na de bezichtiging dezer kaart, dat Columbus zyne onderneming begon.—*Journal de la Belgique, 5den Dec.*

N. B.—In de volgende Courant hoopt de Vertaler van dit stukje, eenige aanmerkingen daarop te geven.

Tuesday last being the anniversary of the restoration of this Colony to His Majesty the King of the Netherlands, the Officers at the head of the Civil Departments gave a Ball to the Officers of the Garrison and Militia, and a numerous and respectable assemblage of the Inhabitants of this Island.

His Majesty's corvet Ajax, of 20 guns, captain Van Zuilen van Nyeveldt, arrived here on Wednesday. The Ajax has been at Delmina, one of our settlements on the coast of Africa, and from thence to Surinam, whence she sailed on the 27th ultimo, and touched at St. Eustatia on her route to this colony.

By the schooner Matchless, which arrived in this port on Thursday evening, four days from Antigua, we have received a confirmation of the news that was before current here of a revolt having taken place in France. Two days previous to the sailing of the Matchless, a vessel reached Antigua from Barbados, which brought accounts of a brig of war having arrived at that island in 26 days passage, express from England, with dispatches. The British government was fitting out 25 sail of the line to go over to assist the Bourbon cause.

Extract of a letter from St Thomas, dated the 28th February, 1817.

"There is a great deal of news here, the particulars I dont know farther than, that a bloody revolution has taken place in France, and England has fitted out 26 sail of the line. Great riots in England, and the packet detained that the government dispatches might reach out before the news. The accounts of this will positively be sent by next opportunity to you."

Extract of another letter, dated St. Thomas 28th February, 1817.

"A vessel from Barbados reports that a brig of war had arrived there from England express, which says that Great Britain is arming, but against what power is not known."

Extract from the Caracas Gazette of the 26th of February, 1817.

A letter, dated Head Quarters del Pilar the 10th of February 1817, from Don Pasqual Real, the commander in chief of the army of the East, to the governor and capt. general of Venezuela, says—

"That on the 7th, after having been informed of the position of Bolivar, who with 1000 men and 6 pieces of cannon had entrenched himself in the House of Charity of Barcelona, he joined the division of Clarines under Manuel Bausa, Francisco Ximenes, and Francisco Tomas Morales, and resolved to make an attack on the city; in which he succeeded so far as to take possession of the Bridge, and to force the enemy, who lost 300 men between killed, wounded and missing, to return to their entrenchment. In consequence of this manœuvre the city of Barcelona is very closely besieged since the 10th, except by the road to Cumana.

"On the 12th, the royal squadron on its return to Cumana, attacked 4 vessels of the enemy cruizing off the harbour of Barcelona, and chased them on shore in the mouth of the river.

"His excellency Pablo Morillo's Head Quarters were on the 14th in the city of St. Fernando. When the Insurgents of Achagua (that is to say, *the eight thousand men under Urdaneta*, in whom Simon Bolivar trusted so much) understood that news, they were terrified and made their escape into the woods on the other side of the Arouca. His excellency is shortly expected in the city of Calabozo.

"On the 6th instant, at one o'clock in the afternoon, Mariño detached from 8 to 900 men of his army, amongst whom were 200 cavalry, to assist their brethren in Barcelona. On the 9th only 400 of them arrived, the others having disappeared in the mountains, as a proof of their inclination to the service. The number of those who remained at Cautaro is very much diminished either by desertion or famine; they have returned to Cariaco and Cumanacoa where they wander about.—*Thus ended the siege of Cumana, announced with much pomp, but supported in a most disgraceful manner.*"

DISCOVERY OF AMERICA.

In the last Number of the Magazine for the Sciences, Arts, and Letters, published in Dutch at Amsterdam, it is proved, from new documents that are very authentic, that it is not to Columbus or to Vespucius that we owe the discovery of America, but to Martin Behens, a native of Nuremberg, in Franconia. He was a most learned geographer, astronomer, and navigator. He sailed in 1459 with a vessel equipped by the orders of Isabella, daughter of John II. King of Portugal, who was at that time Governess of Burgundy and Flanders. He first discovered Fayal, with the adjacent islands called the Azores, which bore for a long time the name of the *Islet of the Flemings*. He inhabited for twenty years that city, where he established a colony of Flemings.—Eight years before the expedition of Columbus, in 1484, he secretly applied to John II. who equipped a flotilla to give him all kinds of succours. Behens first discovered the Brazils, penetrated as far as the Straits of Magellan, and visited the country inhabited by the Patagonians. He made a map of his discoveries, delivered it to the king, and sent a copy of it to Nuremberg, his native city, where it is still preserved in the archives of the city. It was after the inspection of this map that Columbus undertook his expedition.—*Journal de la Belgique, Dec. 5.*

Communicated for the Curaçao Courant.

THE FIELD OF BATTLE.

FROM THE NORLOLK HERAFD.

'Tis night—the combat's rage is o'er,
The watch fires blaze from hill to hill,
The bugle note is heard no more,
But all is solemn—hush'd—and still!
Save when the breezes lengthen'd moan
Swells on the sentry's ear—a dying groan.

How changed the scene! the morning's beam
Beheld you host in bright array,
With banner'd pomp—and armour's gleam,
And martial music, hail the day;
While proud defiance flam'd in every eye
And heav'd each breast with hopes of victory!

But now—the arm that thunder pour'd,
The voice that courage oft inspir'd,
The mind with God-like science stor'd,
And hearts that long to fame aspir'd—
And souls of kindred worth—and matchless faith,
Supinely slumber in the shades of death

Rest—slumberers—rest—the morn shall wake
When ye to life again may rise;
When every earthly bond shall break,
And Hope, and Glory fire your eyes!
Glory—to HIM for ever thron'd on high,
And Hope—replete with blissful immortality!

W. B. C. P.

Advertisement Extraordinary.

The following specimen of literary elegance appeared in the form of an advertisement in Philadelphia some years ago.

I, Jean La Mort bien trou necessite oblige to teash de langue francais to de peuple, i be vere glad spose you send your shilds a moi. I leave toder ind second street.

All mi liseur our I make sausage pour vende. O i forget ow mush I ave pour teash—1 schilling lecon, and 4 doll quartre pour teash de plus polite langue de l'Europe.

—— o⁀o ——

AMERICA.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Washington, Dec. 3, 1816.

This day, at 12 o'clock, the President of the United States transmitted to both Houses of Congress the following Message, by Mr. Todd, his Secretary :—

Fellow-Citizens of the Senate,
And of the House of Representatives,

In reviewing the present state of our country, our attention cannot be withheld from the effect produced by peculiar seasons, which have very generally impaired the annual gifts of the earth, and threatened scarcity in particular districts. Such, however, is the variety of soils, of climates, and of products within our extensive limits, that the aggregate resources for subsistence are more than sufficient for the aggregate wants. And as far as an economy of consumption, more than usual, may be necessary, our thankfulness is due to Providence, for what is far more than a compensation, in the remarkable health which has distinguished the present year.

Amidst the advantages which have succeeded the peace of Europe, and that of the United States with Great-Britain, in a general invigoration of industry among us, and in the extension of our commerce, the value of which is more and more disclosing itself to commercial nations, it is to be regretted that a depression is experienced by particular branches of our manufactures, and by a portion of our navigation. As the first proceeds, in an essential degree, from an excess of imported merchandize, which carries a check in its own tendency, the cause, in its present extent, cannot be of very long duration. The evil will not, however, be viewed by Congress, without a recollection, that manufacturing establishments, if suffered to sink too low, or languish too long, may not revive, after the causes shall have ceased; and that in the vicissitudes of human affairs, situations may recur, in which a dependence on foreign resources for indispensable supplies may be among the most serious embarrassments.

The depressed state of our navigation is to be ascribed, in a material degree, to its exclusion from the Colonial parts of the nation most extensively connected with us in commerce, and from the indirect operation of that exclusion.

Previous to the late convention at London, between the United States and Great-Britain, the relative state of the navigation laws of the two countries, growing out of the treaty of 1794, had given to the British navigation a material advantage over the American, in the intercourse between the American ports and British ports in Europe. The convention of London equalized the laws of the two countries, relating to these ports; leaving the intercourse between our ports and the ports of the British colonies subject, as before, to the respective regulations of the parties. The British government enforcing new regulations, which prohibit a trade between its colonies and the United States, in American vessels, whilst they permit a trade in British vessels, the American navigation loses accordingly; and the loss is augmented by the advantage which is given to the British competition over the American, in the navigation between our ports, and British ports in Europe, by the circuitous voyage, enjoyed by the one, and not enjoyed by the other.

The reasonableness of the rule of reciprocity, applied to one branch of the commercial intercourse, has been pressed on our part, as equally applicable to both branches; but it is ascertained, that the British cabinet declines all negociation on the subject; with a disavowal, however, of any disposition to view, in an unfriendly light, whatever countervailing regulations the United States may oppose to the regulations of which they complain. The wisdom of the Legislature will decide on the course, which, under these circumstances, is prescribed by a joint regard to the amicable relations between the two nations, and to the just interests of the United States.

I have the satisfaction to state, generally, that we remain in amity with foreign powers.

An occurrence has, indeed, taken place in the Gulf of Mexico, which, if sanctioned by the Spanish government, may make an exception as to that power. According to the report of our naval commander on that station, one of our public armed vessels was attacked by an overpowering force, under a Spanish commander, and the American flag, with the officers and crew, insulted, in a manner calling for prompt reparation. This has been demanded.—In the mean time, a frigate and smaller vessel of war have been ordered into that Gulf, for the protection of our commerce. It would be improper to omit, that the representative of his Catholic majesty, in the United States, lost no time in giving the strongest assurances, that no hostile order could have emanated from his government, and that it will be as ready to do, as to expect, whatever the nature of the case, and the friendly relations of the two countries, shall be found to require.

The posture of our affairs with Algiers, at the present moment, is not known. The Dey, drawing pretexts from circumstances, for which the United States were not answerable, addressed a letter to this government, declaring the treaty, last concluded with him, to have been annulled by our violation of it; and presenting, as the alternative of war, or a renewal of the former treaty, which stipulated, among other things, an annual tribute. The answer, with an explicit declaration that the United States preferred war to tribute, required his recognition and observance of the treaty last made, which abolishes tribute, and the slavery of our captured citizens. The result of the answer has not been received.—Should he renew his warfare on our commerce, we rely on the protection it will find in our naval force actually in the Mediterranean.

With the other Barbary States our affairs have undergone no change.

The Indian tribes within our limits appear also disposed to remain at peace. From several of them purchases of lands have been made, particularly favourable to the wishes and security of our frontier settlements, as well as to the general interests of the nation. In some instances, the titles, though not supported by due proof, and clashing those of one tribe with the claims of another, have been extinguished by double purchases; the benevolent policy of the United States preferring the augmented

expence to the hazard of doing injustice, or to the enforcement of justice against a feeble and untutored people, by means involving or threatening an effusion of blood. I am happy to add, that the tranquillity which has been restored among the tribes themselves, as well as between them and our own population, will favour the resumption of the work of civilization, which had made an encouraging progress among some tribes; and that the facility is increasing for extending that divided and individual ownership, which exists now in moveable property only, to the soil itself; and of thus establishing, in the culture and improvement of it, the true foundation for a transit from the habits of the savage to the arts and comforts of social life.

As a subject of the highest importance to the national welfare, I must again earnestly recommend to the consideration of Congress a re-organization of the Militia, on a plan which will form it into classes, according to the periods of life more or less adapted to military services. An efficient militia is authorised and contemplated by the Constitution, and required by the spirit and safety of a free government. The present organization of our militia is universally regarded as less efficient than it ought to be made; and no organization can be better calculated to give to it due force, than a classification which will assign the foremost place in the defence of the country, to that portion of its citizens, whose activity and animation best enable them to rally to its standard. Besides the consideration, that a time of peace is the time when the change can be made with most convenience and equity, it will now be aided by the experience of a recent war, in which the militia bore so interesting a part.

Congress will call to mind, that no adequate provision has yet been made for the uniformity of weights and measures, also contemplated by the Constitution. The great utility of a standard, fixed in its nature, and founded on the easy rule of decimal proportions, is sufficiently obvious.—It led the government, at an early stage, to preparatory steps for introducing it; and a completion of the work will be a just title to the public gratitude.

The importance, which I have attached to the establishment of a university within this district, on a scale and for objects worthy of the American nation, induces me to renew my recommendation of it to the favourable consideration of Congress; and I particularly invite again their attention to the expediency of exerting their existing powers, and, where necessary, of resorting to the prescribed mode of enlarging them in order to effectuate a comprehensive system of roads and canals, such as will have the effect of drawing more closely together every part of our country, by promoting intercourse and improvements, and by increasing the share of every part in the common stock of national prosperity.

Occurrences having taken place which shew that the statutory provisions for the dispensation of criminal justice, are deficient in relation both to places and to persons, under the exclusive cognizance of the national authority, an amendment of the law, embracing such cases, will merit the earliest attention of the Legislature. It will be a seasonable occasion also for inquiring how far legislative interposition may be further requisite in providing penalties for offences designated in the constitution or in the Statutes, and to which either no penalties are annexed, or none with sufficient certainty. And I submit to the wisdom of Congress, whether a more enlarged revisal of the criminal code be not expedient, for the purpose of mitigating, in certain cases, penalties which were adopted into it, antecedent to experiments and examples which justify and recommend a more lenient policy.

The United States having been the first to abolish, within the extent of their authority, the transportation of the natives of Africa into slavery, by prohibiting the introduction of slaves, and by punishing their citizens participating in the traffic, cannot but be gratified at the progress made by concurrent efforts of other nations, towards a general suppression of so great an evil. They must feel, at the same time, the greater solicitude to give the fullest efficacy to their own regulations. With that view the interposition of Congress appears to be required by the violations and evasions which, it is suggested, are chargeable on unworthy citizens, who mingle in the Slave-Trade under foreign flags, and with foreign ports; and by collusive importations of slaves into the United States, through adjoining ports and territories. I present the subject to Congress, with a full assurance of their disposition to apply all the remedy which can be afforded by an amendment of the law. The regulations which were intended to guard against abuses of a kindred character, in the trade between the several States, ought also to be rendered more effectual for their humane object.

To these recommendations I add, for the consideration of Congress, the expediency of a remodification of the Judiciary establishment, and of an additional department in the Executive branch of the government.

The first is called for by the accruing business which necessarily swells the duties of the Federal Courts; and by the great and widening space, within which justice is to be dispensed by them. The time seems to have arrived, which claims for members of the Supreme Court a relief from itinerary fatigues, incompatible, as well with the age which a portion of them will always have attained, as with the researches and preparations which are due to their stations, and to the juridical reputation of their country; and considerations equally cogent require a more convenient organization of the subordinate tribunals, which may be accomplished without an objectionable increase of the number or expence of the Judges.

The extent and variety of the Executive business, also accumulating with the progress of our country and its growing population, call for an additional department, to be charged with duties now overburdening other departments, and with such as have not been annexed to any department.

The course of experience recommends as another improvement in the Executive establishment, that the provision for the station of Attorney-General, whose residence at the seat of Government, official connections with it, and management of the public business before the Judiciary, preclude an extensive participation in professional emoluments, be made more adequate to his services and relinquishments; and that, with a view to his reasonable accommodation, and to a proper depository of his official opinions and proceedings, there be included in the provisions the usual appurtenances to a public office.

In directing the Legislative attention to the state of the finances, it is a subject of great gratification to find, that, even within the short period, which has elapted since the return of peace, the revenue has far exceeded all the current demands upon the Treasury, and that, under any probable diminution of its future annual product, which the vicissitudes of commerce may occasion, it will afford an ample fund for the effectual and early extinguishment of the public debt. It has been estimated, that during the year 1816, the actual receipts of revenue at the Treasury, including the balance at the commencement of the year, and excluding the proceeds of Loans and Treasury Notes will amount to about the sum of forty-seven millions of dollars; that during the same years the actual payments, at the Treasury, including the payment of arrearages of the War Department, as well as the payment of a considerable excess, beyond the annual appropriations, will amount to about the sum of thirty-eight millions of dollars; and that consequently, at the close of the year, there will be a surplus in the Treasury of about the sum of nine millions of dollars.

The operations of the treasury continue to be obstructed by difficulties, arising from the condition of the national currency; but they have, nevertheless, been effectual, to a beneficial extent, in the reduction of the public debt, and the establishment of the public credit. The floating debt of treasury notes and temporary loans will soon be entirely discharged. The aggregate of the funded debt, composed of debts incurred during the wars of 1776 and of 1812, has been estimated, with reference to the first of January next, at a sum not exceeding one hundred and ten millions of dollars.—The ordinary annual expences of the government for the maintenance of all its institutions, civil, military, and naval, have been estimated at a sum less than twenty millions of dollars. And the permanent revenue, to be derived from all the existing sources, has been estimated at a sum of about twenty five millions of dollars.

Upon this general view of the subject, it is obvious, that there is only wanting, to the fiscal prosperity of the government, the restoration of an uniform medium of exchange. The resources and the faith of the nation, displayed in the system which Congress has established, ensure respect and confidence both at home and abroad. The local accumulations of the revenue have already enabled the treasury to meet the public engagements in the local currency of most of the States; and it is expected that the same cause will produce the same effect throughout the Union. But, for the interests of the community at large, as well as for the purposes of the treasury, it is essential that the nation should possess a currency of equal value, credit, and use, wherever it may circulate. The constitution has entrusted Congress exclusively with the power of creating and regulating a currency of that description; and the measures which were taken during the last session, in execution of the power, give every promise of success. The bank of the United States has been organized under auspices the most favourable, and cannot fail to be an important auxiliary to those measures.

For a more enlarged view of the public finances, with a view of the measures pursued by the treasury department, previous to the resignation of the late Secretary, I transmit an extract from the last report of that officer. Congress will perceive in it ample groofs of the solid foundation on which the financial prosperity of the nation rests; and will do justice to the distinguished ability and successful exertions with which the duties of the department were executed, during a period remarkable for its difficulties and its peculiar perplexities.

The period of my retiring from the public service being at little distance, I shall find no occasion more proper than the present for expressing to my fellow citizens my deep sense of the continued confidence and kind support which I have received from them. My grateful recollection of these distinguished marks of their favourable regard can never cease; and, with the consciousness, that if I have not served my country with greater ability, I have served it with a sincere devotion, will accompany me as a source of unfailing gratifications.

Happily I shall carry with me from the public theatre other sources, which those, who love their country most, will best appreciate. I shall behold it blessed with tranquillity and prosperity at home; and with peace and respect abroad.—I can indulge the proud reflection, that the American people have reached in safety and success their fortieth year as an Independent Nation; that, for nearly an entire generation, they have had experience of their present Constitution, the offspring of their undisturbed deliberations and of their free choice; that they have found it to bear the trials of adverse as well as prosperous circumstances, to contain in its combination of the federate and elective principles a reconcilement of public strength with individual liberty, of national power for the defence of national rights, with a security against wars of injustice, of ambition, or of vain glory, in the fundamental provision which subjects all questions of war to the will of the nation itself, which is to pay its costs and feel its calamities. Nor is it less a peculiar felicity of this Constitution, so dear to us all, that it is found to be capable, without losing its vital energies, of expanding itself over a spacious territory, with the increase and expansion of the community for whose benefit it was established.

And may I not be allowed to add to this gratifying spectacle, that I shall read in the character of the American people, in their devotion to true liberty, and to the Constitution which is its palladium, sure presages, that the destined career of my country will exhibit a government pursuing the public good as its sole object, and regulating its means by the great principles consecrated in its charter, and by those moral principles to which they are so well allied: A government which watches over the purity of elections, the freedom of speech and of the press, the trial by Jury, and the equal interdict against encroachments and compacts between religion and the State, which maintains inviolably the maxims of public faith, the security of persons and property, and encourages in every authorized mode that general diffusion of knowledge, which guarantees to public liberty its permanency, and to those who possess the blessing the true enjoyment of it; a government which avoids intrusions on the internal repose of other nations, and repels them from its own; which does justice to all nations with a readiness equal to the firmness with which it requires justice from them; and which, whilst it refines its domestic code from every ingredient not congenial with the precepts of an enlightened age, and the sentiments of a virtuous people, seeks, by appeals to reason, and by its liberal examples, to infuse into the law, which governs the civilized world, a spirit which may diminish the frequency, or circumscribe the calamities, of war, and meliorate the social and beneficent relations of peace; a government, in a word, whose conduct, within and without, may bespeak the most noble of all ambitions, that of promoting peace on earth, and good will to man.

These contemplations, sweetening the remnant of my days, will animate my prayers for the happiness of my beloved country, and a perpetuity of the institutions under which it is enjoyed.

JAMES MADISON.

Gedrukt, en Saturdags 's Morgens uitgeven,
By WILLIAM LEE,
Drukker van Zyne Majesteit den Koning der Nederlanden.